

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01  
CIAE-00 ERDA-07 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-07  
IO-13 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-06  
SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 /119 W  
-----080259Z 060580 /22

R 071635Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1835 PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS WINNIPEG 0082

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJ: MANITOBA TO PROPOSE MODIFICATIONS TO GARRISON

REF: WINNIPEG 0081

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MANITOBA MAY ASK THE IJC TO RECOMMEND REMOVAL OF THE RED AND SOURIS RIVERS FROM THE GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT IN ORDER TO PROTECT MANITOBA WATER QUALITY. MANITOBA ENVIRONMENT MINISTER SIDNEY GREEN DISCUSSED THIS POSSIBILITY WITH NORTH DAKOTA REPS AT MARCH 3 MEETING AT PEACE GARDENS (REFTEL).

2. THE PROPOSAL, WHICH WOULD COST AN ESTIMATED DOLS 100 MILLION, WOULD RETURN WATER FROM GARRISON INTO THE MISSOURI RIVER SYSTEM INSTEAD OF THE RED AND SOURIS WHICH FLOW INTO MMANITOBA. SUCH A CLOSED SYSTEM WAS APPARENTLY STUDIED EARLIER, BUT ACCORDING TO NORTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR LINK WOULD CRIPPLE THE GARRISON PROJECT BY DENYING IRRIGATION WATER TO EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA WHICH SUFFERS CHRONIC WATER SHORTAGES.

3. GREEN WILL LIKELY MAKE THIS PROPOSAL TO IJC PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 8 IN MINOT, N.D. MANITOBA CONSERVATIVE AND LIBERAL PARTY  
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LEADERS HAVE ALSO INDICATED THEIR INTENT TO PRESENT SIMILAR BRIEFS AT HEARINGS LATER IN THE PROVINCE.

4. AT SAME TIME, MANITOBA PREMIER SCHREYER REINFORCED HIS FAITH IN IJC BY PRAISING IT AS A MECHANISM FOR SOLVING INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS, AND AMERICANS FOR GOING OUT OF THEIR WAY TO SOLICIT MANITOBA VIEWS "IN A WAY I DON'T THINK WAS EVEN DREAMED OF

YEARS AGO."

5. COMMENT: SCHREYER'S NDP GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CRITICIZED FOR ITS LACK OF VIGOR IN OPPOSING GARRISON. BUT, WITH LEGISLATURE IN SESSION, AND OPPOSING PARTIES LOOKING FOR JAZZY ISSUES AS PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS APPROACH, THE NDP CANNOT BE FOUND WANTING IN ITS DEFENSE OF MANITOBA WATERS.  
HUTSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, WATER DIVERSION, GARRISON DIVERSION UNIT  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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